

**REMARKS**

Claims 13 and 15-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 13 and 15 are amended. Also by this Amendment, new claims 16-25 are added, of which new claims 17-24 recite features similar to those of canceled claims 4-11. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment may be found in at least lines 12-25 on pg. 23 and lines 2-12 on pg. 26 of the Specification. Support for the amendment may also be found in at least Figs. 1, 4, 7, 9, and 10, and corresponding disclosures in the Specification. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Office Action indicates that claim 13 is allowed, and that claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Stock in the January 11 personal interview (hereinafter Interview). Applicant thanks Examiner Stock for his helpful comments. Applicant also acknowledges with thanks the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, for at least the reasons described below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims contain allowable subject matter. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated into the following remarks.

**I. Formal Matters**

The Office Action objects to the Specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is canceled, thus obviating the objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 2 is canceled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under § 112, first paragraph.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and rejects claims 2 and 4-12 for depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14 are canceled, thus rendering moot the rejection of those claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under § 112, second paragraph.

## **II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

### **A. Claim 15 recites Patent Eligible Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 14 is canceled. Applicant amends claim 15 to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 15 under § 101 be withdrawn.

### **B. New Claims 16-25 are Patentable Over Cited Prior Art**

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marschner et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0089199; hereinafter *Marschner*) in view of Halioua et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,641,972; hereinafter *Halioua*). As noted above, claim 14 is canceled, therefore rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection under § 103(a).

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Allowed claim 13 and allowable claim 15, as discussed during the Interview, are amended to clarify the subject matter recited in those claims. Thus, favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13 and 15 are earnestly solicited. New claims 16-25 directly or indirectly depend from allowed claim 13, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, prompt allowance of claims 16-25 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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